PRAYERS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

MATTHEW 25:40 + 45
A PRAYER OF LAMENT
BY MELISSA FLORE-BIXLER

“In Minneapolis
at the foot of the cross,
your neck pinned
under the knee of an officer.

We are not as we ought to be,
Whiteness whispers into cradles until
later, by instinct, we can turn a phone call
into a rope around a tree.

When did we see you?
Your back broken in a police van
Your neck broken on the sidewalk?
When could you not breathe?
When did we see you, shot in your bed?
When did we see you, hung in a county jail cell?

Come grieving mother, weeping child.
Come ministers of fire. Come priests of smoke.
Come heat, come Spirit,
turn gun and badge and night stick
to ash.

Come flame.
Burn us away until
we must begin again.

Amen.

“For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.”
Isaiah 9:5
A PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ADAPTED FROM UCC WORSHIP WAYS

Living God,
we confess our complicity in the
violence of racism and white supremacy,
some of us chained by its oppression
and some of us addicted to
the privilege it creates.
We acknowledge that white supremacy
is not what God intends for us,
that power built on lies and dehumanization
must be confronted and dismantled.

We have betrayed our neighbors
with our lack of urgency and our
desire for decorum.
We repent for the ways we have failed
to show up.
We repent for the ways we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have refused to sacrifice our
comfort, our wealth and our reputation when the
lives of others have been on
the line.

Oh God, accept our repentance today,
for the ways we have neglected the humanity
of those who suffer under the evil system
of racism and white supremacy.

Let our indifference to injustice and our
avoidance of culpability end here and now,
and may we devote our lives to
honoring the full humanity
and the full God-like-ness of ourselves
and all our black and brown siblings.

Amen.
A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY
ADAPTED FROM A RITE FOR STANDING ROCK

From chaos, God has drawn boundaries:
night from day,
water of the earth from water held in the sky,
earth from sky,
sea from dry land.
Boundaries are intentional, necessary, and purposeful for life and health and growth to occur.

Today we affirm that human boundaries have not been kept.
Profits and pipelines have been preferred over people.
Production and consumption cannot be the sole path.
Oil should not outweigh the value of life-giving water.

So, today, we begin to re-draw a boundary around human desecration of the waters.
We re-draw the boundary between the sacredness of the waters and unlimited corporate greed.

We say, “This is not the way of the Maker of All Things.
The Creator of the Universe has a different way, a different path, a different order to the earth.”

In Christian tradition, the waters of baptism remind us of our connection to all things:
we come from water, and live in communion with plant, animal, earth, water, and air.

Water is life.
It purifies, quenches, cleanses, brings about renewal and transformation.
Through baptism, water washes away all that divides us, so that we might know our common ancestry in a loving Creator.
In prayer and solidarity, we are one with the tribes standing against oppression and injustice.

The impact of what happens among the Lakota, Nakota, Dakota, and all the other tribal nations who oppose the colonial grip of white supremacy, happens to us all.

We belong to each other.
We covenant today to help protect the waters of Indigenous lands, the waters of this earth.
We will also speak and act, that death may not overtake our Native sisters and brothers.

Let us remember our baptism, feeling the water on our skin.
By the natural waters of this land, we affirm our sacred covenant with creation, our common ancestry with humanity, the necessity of boundaries, and the truth that water is life.

Amen!
A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE
FROM THE CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOK BEING NEIGHBOR

God of Justice,
open our eyes
to see you in the face of the poor.
Open our ears
to hear you in the cries of the exploited.
Open our mouths
to defend you in the public squares
as well as in private deeds.
Remind us that what we do
to the least ones,
we do to you.
Amen.